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WATCHMAN WAKETH BUT IN VAIN

By:

Thomas Katen
Vincent J. Salandria
Gary Schoener

Thomas Katen is a Professor at the Community College of Philadelphia. Vincent J. Salandria is a Philadelphia Attorney. Gary Schoener is a Graduate Assistant and Ph. D. candidate in clinical psychology at the Medical School, Department of Psychiatry and Neurology, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

CONSPIRACY WAS IMPLICIT IN THE PRESS ACCOUNTS OF NOVEMBER 22, 1963

While the Pentagon was informing the President that there was no conspiracy, based on the above-described wounds, the American press was outlining a conspiracy which was very different from the Pentagon version of the assassination.

Dallas (UPI), November 22, 1963, page 1 of THE BILLINGS GAZETTE, of Billings, Montana carried this report:

"Some of the Secret Service agents thought the gunfire was from an automatic weapon first . . . probably from the grassy knoll to which motorcycle policemen directed their attention as they raced up the slope."

THE LOWELL SUN, Lowell, Massachusetts, November 22, 1963 carried on its first page the UPI account that:

"It was impossible to tell at once where Kennedy was hit, but bullet wounds in Connally's chest were plainly visible, indicating the gunfire might possibly have come from an automatic weapon."

The front page of the ILLINOIS STATE REGISTER of the same date carried the UPI report:

"Newsmen some five car lengths behind the President heard what sounded like three bursts of gunfire."

The BERKSHIRE EAGLE, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts on the assassination day carried a front-

page refutation of a cut-and-dry-one-assassin theory which refutation should have given pause to the Pentagon's immediate conclusion that one assassin had performed the bloody work at Dealey Plaza:

"Three gunbursts of fire, apparently from automatic weapons, were heard."

Perhaps no automatic weapon or weapons were used. Perhaps there was no firing from the grassy knoll. Perhaps the Connally wounds did not prove conspiracy. Perhaps the later dry cleaning and pressing of the Connally clothing prior to submission to the FBI was just a function of idiotic innocence on the part of the government. Perhaps there were just three shots and not bursts of gun fire. But, the press accounts of the wounds, their complexity and number, and the initial accounts of automatic weapons firing from other than the Texas Book Depository provide a grim background for the Pentagon's reassurances to the President and the Cabinet that one man positioned behind the President did all the firing in Dealey Plaza.